
**Report to
The Vermont Legislature**

Report on Child Care Access Stabilization Support

In accordance with Section 86(a) of H.558
of the 2012 Legislative Session
(An Act Relating to Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Adjustment)

Submitted to: House Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Appropriations

Submitted by: Dave Yacovone
Commissioner
Department for Children and Families

Report Date: March 13, 2012



**AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES
Department for Children and Families**

Section 86(a) of H.558 of the 2012 legislative session requires that *"from the funds appropriated in Section 28 of this act, \$200,000 shall be used to provide special supplemental grants to qualified strengthening families child care providers located in areas where there is limited access to high quality child care and where the commissioner has determined the grant will further the applicants' sustained operation, or will provide for an orderly transition of subsidized children to alternative service providers. The commissioner for children and families shall submit to the house and senate committees on appropriations on or before March 13, 2012 a general approach to address emergency funding for the future."*

The following is the general approach the Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families (DCF) will use:

The Commissioner of DCF shall reserve up to one-half of one percent of the child care family assistance program funds to assist child care facilities that may be closing due to financial hardship. The Commissioner shall develop guidelines for providing assistance and shall prioritize relief to child care programs in areas of the state with high poverty and low access to high quality child care.

If the Commissioner determines that the operations of a child care program are not fiscally sustainable he/she may provide assistance to transition children served by the child care operator in an orderly fashion to help secure other child care opportunities for children served by the program in an effort to minimize a disruption of services. The Commissioner has the authority to request tax returns and other financial documents to verify the financial hardship and ability to sustain operations.